3: Simutis S-4 (no date) 1942 RB5 Lithuanians RB5

seized by the government in 1861 and 1863 are to receive priority over all others. Each head of a family may receive not more than 49.4 acres (20 hectares). Land is also to be distributed to public schools, schools of agriculture, and other institutions of learning and culture as well as to hospitals, sanatoriums, asylums, and other social and public organizations.

The land is divided into four classes, graded according to the fertility of the soil. The new owners have to pay equal annual installments for their land for thirty-six years. The rate to be paid varies from 180 to 252 litas per hectare (2.471 acres) for first-class land, depending on its location; 90 to 126 litas for second-class; 36 to 54 litas for third-class, and 18 to 27 litas for fourth-class. No interest accumulates on the unpaid balance except on due shares which are not paid in the time prescribed.[13]

The only recipients of land exempted from all payments are volunteer soldiers in the Lithuanian war for independence and their families.

Former owners of the lands taken for land reform purposes were entitled to compensation. Payment was to be made with government bonds bearing three percent interest and redeemable at any time not later than thirty-six years from the date of issue. Paragraph 58 of the Land Reform Law prescribes that the compensation for the land shall be a fair price based on valuations existing in the period between 1910 and 1914. As the Land Reform Law was passed on April 3, 1922, when *Obost* marks [14] were in circulation, the compensation was to be paid in this currency. (One Russian ruble was made equal to two *Obost* marks.) Paragraph 59 provides that the highest amount paid may not exceed

[13] Salkauskas, *op. cit.*, pp. 325–32.

[14] See, p. 102 below, section on Finance.